First description of the nest of Undulated Antpitta *Grallaria squamigera*, from south-west Ecuador

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The 31 species of *Grallaria* antpittas (Grallariidae) are principally of Andean distribution and are among the most secretive of Neotropical passerines (Krabbe & Schulenberg 2003). Of the 15 species that occur in Ecuador, the nests of ten have been described only during the past seven years (e.g., Freile & Renjifo 2003, Price 2003, Martin & Dobbs 2004, Greeney & Martin 2005, Greeney *et al.* 2006, Martin & Greeney 2006, Greeney *et al.* 2009, Juiña *et al.* 2009, Solano-Ugalde *et al.* 2009, Greeney & Juiña 2010). These studies have left only three species in Ecuador with undescribed nests and have made Ecuador's antpitta fauna one of the most thoroughly studied (Greeney *et al.* 2008, Freile *et al.* 2010). Of the unstudied Ecuadorian *Grallaria*, Bicoloured Antpitta's *G. rufocinerea* range extends south from Colombia only to the extreme north-east and Ochre-striped Antpitta *G. dignissima* is the only lowland Amazonian member of the genus. The final species, Undulated Antpitta *G. squamigera*, is a fairly widespread inhabitant of humid montane forests (at 2,200–3,800 m) from western Venezuela to western Bolivia (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Krabbe & Schulenberg 2003, Freile *et al.* 2010). Here we describe the nest, egg and hatchling of Undulated Antpitta from south-west Ecuador.

Methods and Results

We found a nest of Undulated Antpitta on 25 February 2010 at Cerro Huachaurco (04°03'74"S, 79°87'36"W), at 3,020 m, near Huachanama, prov. Loja. On discovery, at 17.00 h, an adult was present and allowed us to approach to within 30 cm before departing the nest. The nest contained an addled egg and a nestling that was no more than one day old. We returned the following day at 11.15 h to measure the nest, egg and nestling. The egg was turquoise with brown and pale lavender spotting, heaviest at both ends but more so at the larger end. It measured 33.5 × 28.0 mm. The nestling's skin was dark pink to greyish, with dark legs and feet. The bill was dusky with an orange mouth lining and slightly brighter rictal flanges. The coloration of both the lining and flanges was not as bright as in other *Grallaria* spp. we have observed. The nestling was mostly covered by dense tufts of black natal down and weighed 16.5 g. We returned on 1 March at 07.15 h, at which time an adult was brooding, leaving the nest only after we approached to within 1 m. The nestling weighed 36 g and was similar in coloration to previously. Pin feathers had broken through the skin on all contour feather tracts and primary pin feathers were *c.*5 mm long and unbroken. We were unable to monitor the nest further.

The nest was a bulky, cup-shaped structure composed mostly of green moss intermixed with a few sticks and dead leaves. It was lined with dark, flexible fibres and rootlets, as well as a fair number of needles from the stand of introduced pines just 30 m away. The nest was 2.5 m above ground and supported by the crossing of several nearly horizontal branches, most less than 5 cm in diameter (but two were *c.*10 cm diameter). From below it appeared to be little more than a large clump of naturally collected debris, and was likely built onto a pre-existing collection of material. Externally, the nest was slightly oblong and measured 27 × 25 cm wide and 22 cm tall. The internal cup measured 13 × 14 cm wide by *c.*6–7 cm deep.

The forest surrounding the nest was scrubby second growth, with a fragmented canopy *c.*10–15 m in height.

Discussion

In general form and appearance the nest, egg and nestling of Undulated Antpitta are similar to those of other *Grallaria* (Greeney *et al.* 2008). Unlike most, however, the turquoise egg is rather heavily spotted. As sample sizes are still small for most species, and better-studied species show variation in this respect (Greeney & Martin 2005), the significance of heavily marked eggs in this species is unclear. Undulated Antpitta joins a number of other species of *Grallaria* in building its nest supported by multiple small branches rather than in well-supported situations such as tree trunks (Greeney *et al.* 2008). It shares this trait with Plain-backed Antpitta *G. haplonota* (Greeney *et al.* 2006), Chestnut-crowned *G. ruficapilla* (Martin & Greeney 2006), Watkins's *G. watkinsi* (Martin & Dobbs 2004), Chestnut-naped *G. nuchalis* (Juiña *et al.* 2009), Stripe-headed *G. andicola* (J. Fjeldså *in* Greeney *et al.* 2008) and Tawny Antpittas *G. quitensis* (Greeney & Martin 2005). Of all of these, however, it shares the predominance of moss in the nest with only Stripe-headed and Tawny Antpittas. Observations on several nests in north-west Ecuador, presumed to be of this species, suggest that the position and composition of this nest is probably typical for Undulated Antpitta (HFG unpubl.).

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New record of Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* in Ecuador

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Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* is widespread throughout much of the Western Hemisphere, with five subspecies (*A. c. borreroi*, *A. c. cyanoptera*, *A. c. orinomus*, *A. c. septentrionalium* and *A. c. tropica*) currently recognised (Snyder & Lumsden 1951, Wilson *et al.* 2010). *A. c. septentrionalium* breeds in western North America and is a common winter visitor to the southern USA and Central America, with small numbers reaching northern South America. South American populations are mainly sedentary or exhibit only small-scale dispersal (Phillips 1923). *A. c. borreroi* is endemic to the east Colombian Andes, whereas the adjacent lowlands are occupied by *A. c. tropica*. Further, *A. c. orinomus* occurs in the highlands of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. The most widespread South American subspecies, *A. c. cyanoptera*, occurs throughout the lowlands of Peru to Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, and occasionally wanders to the central high Andes, where it may be found with *A. c. orinomus* (Evarts 2005).

Figure 1. Map of Ecuador showing the locations of Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* reports mentioned in the text.

Cinnamon Teal has historically been scarce in the Ecuadorian high Andes and inter-Andean valley, with records of both *A. c. borreroi* and *A. c. septentrionalium* in northern Ecuador. The last record was of a pair of *A. c. septentrionalium* on Laguna de San Pablo, prov. Imbabura, 50 km north of Quito, in 1938 (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001); it was subsequently considered extirpated in Ecuador (Granizo *et al.* 2002). The cause of its disappearance is uncertain (Ridgely & Greenfield 2006) but wetland disturbance seems most likely (MAE *et al.* 2000).

There have been very few recent observations of Cinnamon Teal in Ecuador (Fig. 1). There are two reports, of a male and a pair, at Punta Moreno, Isabela Island, Galápagos, in October and November 2004 (Kostecke & Kostecke 2006), the first records for the archipelago. The species has been reported twice in southern Ecuador: one on Laguna de Llaviuco, Cajas National Park, prov. Azuay (King 1989), for which supporting evidence is lacking, and one at Santa Rosa marshes, prov. El Oro, on 1 June 2003 (R. Ahlman pers. comm.). These reports probably involved vagrant *A. c. cyanoptera* as this subspecies is